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Supernatural

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news PREMONITIONS

All the latest buzz from the *Supernatural* universe. Remember, you read it here first...



SIBLING RIVALRY?

Eric Kripke explains how Sam and Dean are equal in *Supernatural*...

If you think about *Supernatural*, probably the first thing that springs to mind is Sam and Dean themselves, the two characters who hold the show together with their brotherly bond. In any family though, you're bound to find some rivalry, and according to some fans of the show, Sam's being given a more prominent role than Dean in the myth-arc of *Supernatural* thanks to his demonic destiny. We spoke to *Supernatural* creator Eric Kripke about the issue, to find out whether one brother's really in the other's shadow...

"This issue has come up among the fans time and again, so thank you for giving me the opportunity to address it," Kripke says. "First, let me say that I'm sorry [some people are] disappointed with where the show is going. But I'm afraid you just can't please all the people all the time. I'm also aware that no matter what I say, the people who believe Dean's been sidelined won't be convinced, and they're certainly entitled to their opinion," Kripke says. "But here's my two cents, for whatever it's worth: Dean has never, will never, be sidelined from

Speaking for ourselves here at *The Official Supernatural Magazine*, we can't imagine the show without either of the Winchester boys – their relationship is the very thing that hooked us to the show in the beginning, and long may that continue!



THE ROAD SO FAR

In issue #1 of *The Official Supernatural Magazine*, we unveiled an extra special subscription offer whereby subscribers not only get six issues of the magazine delivered direct to their door, but also a specially designed map of the United States featuring key landmarks from the show, as well as 10 beautifully-drawn stickers (illustrated by CreatureBox). Now we don't want to harp on about this too much (after all, this is a news page, not an advertorial), but we're pretty excited about the map here, and wanted to give you a sneaky peek at what you can expect. Nice, huh?

**LOCKED #4
AND LOADED
TASER**



Originally designed for police use, its one-shot capability, and some widely available in some countries. Dean found it to be just the health concerns, limit its use however. Dean found it to be just the weapon to deal with a child-abducting Rawhead demon in *Faith*, but suffered the effects himself too, since he and the creature were both in a conducting puddle of water at the time. Don't try this at home, kids!



TOOLS#4

OF THE TRADE

WOODEN STAKE

Each month, we take a look at a Winchester weapon of choice.

Stakes of wood are a staple of horror TV, movies and literature, notably for their use in dispatching vampires. Wood piercing the heart of a vampire was identified as a useful tactic in Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*, and has remained in the mythology ever since. Ironically, in the world of *Supernatural*, vampires aren't vulnerable to wooden stakes, but Dean and Sam found stakes of evergreen wood to be just the thing to deal with the pagan gods in *A Very Supernatural Christmas*, taking advantage of the gods' vulnerability to it.

THIS ISSUE: LUCY
Memorable *Supernatural*
guest stars hunted down...

Vampire Lucy was no doubt the envy of many a *Supernatural* fan when she got to nuzzle on Dean's neck in season three's *Fresh Blood*. It wasn't the first time actress Mercedes McNab had worn a pair of fangs; however, as the shot to fame playing dizzy bloodsucker Harmony in both *Buty The Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*, Mercedes can be seen next battling an asylum full of crazed inmates in the thriller *Medium Rare*, "playing one of a group of jurors being menaced in *XII*, and starring in the drama *Thirst*. Not, as the title might suggest, as another vampire, but as one of four people whose truck flips over and strands them in the desert. Thirsty work indeed!

NEWS



Jeffrey Dean Morgan, better known of course as the Winchester brothers' dad John, is in almost unrecognizable form in this summer's highly anticipated comic book adaptation, *Watchmen*. Playing the hard-bitten anti-hero Edward Blake aka The Comedian, Morgan can be seen oigan-in-mouth and machine gun in hand in this gritty drama.



Jared Padalecki is apparently in final negotiations to star in the remake of

Friday The 13th for New Line and Paramount Pictures, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The original movie, released back in 1980, and its many sequels, revolved around a hockey-masked serial killer who comes back from the dead to stalk a group of teen camp counsellors at a summer camp, Crystal Lake.

In the remake, Jared will play the lead, who investigates what happened up at Crystal Lake. Well, at least Jared's had some practice hunting supernatural killers!

Friday The 13th is currently scheduled for release, appropriately enough, on Friday, February 13th, 2009.

BITES

TOP FIVE

... METALLICAR MOMENTS!

The Crash (*Devil's Trap*)

Pity that poor car. One minute she's transporting three Winchesters to the hospital after their terrifying encounter with the Yellow-Eyed Demon (Azazel to his friends). The next, she's flattened by a truck driven by one of Azazel's lackeys. For all the "Ouch!" factor, however, you have to admit it: that's one damn cool collision.

The Swindle (*Simon Said*)

The moment every single *Supernatural* viewer yelled the words: "Dean! Noooooooo!" Looking back, we all know that Andy Gallagher wasn't really evil, and that the Impala was in safe hands, but on first watch all we saw was a mind-bending freak stealing Dean's baby. The look on Dean's face as the car drives off has only ever been matched by his panic attack upon thinking the Impala had been stolen in *Red Sky At Morning*.

The Chase (*Route 666*)

In one corner: the Metallicar. In the other: a giant phantom truck on a mission to kill. The Impala roars through the night with the spooky vehicle on its trail, while Sam, on the other end of the phone, tries to guide Dean to safety (safety in this case being hallowed ground). It's a frenetic chase that left our fingernails chewed - If Dean hadn't been so busy driving, he'd probably have been doing the same to his.

The Bullet-Dodging (*Croatoan*)

Dean tears out of the zombie town of River Grove to get help from the outside world, but runs into a roadblock. Rather than be captured by the bad guys, he does exactly what you'd expect Dean to do: reverse at full speed, swinging the Impala around with a screech of its tires, and squealing away with bullets raining down on him and Sam. And not one of them hits the car. Cool-o-rama!

The Therapeutic Trunk-Bashing (*In My Time Of Dying*)

After John's death, Dean had a lot of pent-up frustration, but didn't feel he could turn to Sam to vent it. He used his next-best friend instead, beating the Impala's trunk with a tire iron until it made him feel better. She was probably pleased to be able to help, but it's a good job the Metallicar doesn't have nerve endings, eh?

SUPERN ENCOU

When working on a show like *Supernatural*, it's practically expected that you'll have spooky encounters that'll leave you wondering what's really out there. But ghosts and demons aren't the only things Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles have encountered lurking in the shadows. They have a very dedicated fan base, some of whom will go to any lengths to meet the duo in person... including traveling to *Supernatural*'s Canadian set, all the way from Australia, with only the faintest hope of even glimpsing the stars as they go to and from work.

But even when they're not being

hunted by over-zealous fans, the attractive young actors are regularly noticed by the ladies. For example, Padalecki points out that he "can't go to malls on weekends."

And apparently the actors have a strong following with some viewers who have an affinity with the *Folsom Prison Blues* episode. Padalecki relates how he's gotten some "kooky" fanmail that's written in block letters. "I'll look at the return address and it will be something like 'Cell 349E, Block 7'."

"There are those interesting ones, but for the most part, they're all very flattering. You know, the roles that I've played haven't really lent themselves to crazed people saying, 'Let's rule the

world together.'" Ackles agrees. "I don't think he or I have ever had anything too psychotic happen. It's all been very flattering. The fans are very cool." Padalecki jumps in, "For the most part, it's like, 'I love your work. Can we have a picture, an autograph, or a hug or something?'" Or like, "Can I call my mom?" We watch the show every week, and can you say hi? It's nothing crazy - I mean, I've had my butt grabbed a few times, but that's all right.

"They're just fun experiences," says Padalecki. "It's funny when [people are] shy, because I'm very relaxed and I think I'm very approachable. I'm not a jerk; If you come up and say you like the show, I'll sit there and talk to you for a little bit because you're a person like I am.

DEMONS, VENGEFUL SPIRITS, AND PAGAN GODS ARE ALL IN A DAY'S - OR NIGHT'S - WORK FOR SAM AND DEAN WINCHESTER, BUT WHAT ABOUT JENSEN ACKLES AND JARED PADALECKI? WE SPEAK TO SUPERNATURAL'S LEADING MEN ABOUT OBSESSED PRISONERS, SILENT GIRLS IN SUPERMARKETS, AND HOW WORKING ON THE SHOW HAS HELPED THEM DEAL WITH THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT...

NATURAL NTERS

Words: Nicholas Knight

"But sometimes I'll be shopping and I'll notice a girl in the aisle and I'll kind of nod and pass by. Then I'll be in the next aisle and she'll be in the next aisle, too, so I'll go back to the last aisle and she's [eventually] there in the last aisle [as well]. I feel bad because I don't want to go up and be like, 'Hey, I think you know who I am.' How cheesy is that? But I also don't want her to feel shy. I remember I felt so bad that day because there was one specific time when this was happening, and probably for a good 10 minutes I was in the first aisle looking at apples and she happened to be [looking at] an orange. I think in the whole 10-15 minutes, she didn't actually pick up [a single] item to buy. I remember she never said anything to me. I remember feeling bad. I hope she didn't want to say anything, because if she did, I was [sorry] that she was too shy."



Padalecki may get the quiet fans, but Ackles tends to attract the louder kind of *Supernatural* follower. "Sometimes [I'm] walking along and I've heard girls scream. It's bizarre. It's not something I think I'll ever get used to, but it's really unique to have that effect, to have people respect and respond to what you do and let you know about it vocally. It's cool, but it's weird!"

The boys agree that most fan encounters are of the friendly kind, and some are even downright heartwarming. Padalecki discusses a great piece of fanmail that he received that he says, "made me feel good inside. [The fan] said she'd actually quoted Sam and Dean at her father's funeral, and that watching the show had helped her get through it. I guess us dealing with our father's loss or the loss of our mother and some of the things that our characters have said she found relevant. Relevant enough to say at her father's funeral. It's kind of like, 'Wow!' That's intense - I remember it just really warmed me up."

And some fans are friendlier than others. "I've gotten bras thrown at me and stuff like that, which was kind of fun," Padalecki admits. Although sometimes the girls can be a little too friendly. "It depends where you are," reveals Padalecki. "If it's high school girls, they just want to take a picture, have you sign something so that they can tell their friends. But if you're at a bar and it's some girl who wants in





"I WAS WATCHING THE SHOW AND THE LIGHTS STARTED FLICKERING, AND I WAS LIKE, 'THE DEMON!'" — JARED

your pants because they think you have money or something..." Padalecki is wary of those girls, just as he is with people who want to befriend him as a way to break into the industry. However, it's not tough for the actors to see through those people. "You can tell by how intense someone is," explains Padalecki. "If they're like, 'Hey, you work on the show. That's cool. You want a drink?' Or if someone is like, 'Hey, who is your agent? Do you have guest stars? Do you hire locally?' The more they ask you about what's going on, it's different. If they treat you just like a person, like, 'Hey, what's going on? Do you want to go play a game of pool or something?' You can kind of tell just by talking to them what they're after."

Then there are the fans who truly believe in the supernatural. "I've gotten spells sent to me," Ackles reveals. "Not voodoo dolls; nothing like that. No pentagrams or anything. You know, like good wishes spells sent to me with crazy herbs and stuff..." But while the senders assured him the spells were for protection, he hasn't risked trying them yet. "They're like, 'Here, read this and do this,' and I'm like, 'No.'"

While some fans offer the guys protection from the evils of the world, others come to them for help. "I've actually gotten a few of those," comments Ackles. "Hey, I think my house is haunted. What do I do?" And I'm like, "I don't know."

If they asked Padalecki, he might just

JARED & JENSEN
INTERVIEW

"I'M NOT GOING TO
WALK UNDER
A LADDER, BUT I DON'T
KEEP THE SAME SOCKS ON
FOR TWO MONTHS."
JENSEN



tell them to lock their doors. "My fiancée is completely scared of ghosts," he shares. "She can't watch a commercial for a scary movie because she's like, 'Ghosts!' I remember one time she was having trouble sleeping, so I bought her some door locks for her bedroom. I was like, 'Lock your door. Turn your alarm on.' And she's sad, 'Locks don't work against ghosts.'"

Then again, Padalecki's first instinct isn't always ghosts - he's just as likely to blame odd occurrences on the Yellow-Eyed Demon. "You always hear about cold spots in a room or lights flickering or something like that," he points out. "I was watching the show - I was watching the [first] season finale with my parents - and the lights started flickering, and I was like, 'The demon.' I just found myself saying that. And I was like, 'It's happened to me!'"

Something else that's ingrained in Padalecki are superstitions. "Yeah, a little bit. When I get on planes or go under

a yellow light, I kiss my finger and touch the ceiling," he confesses. "I don't know what that is. I think I saw someone do it one time and now I have to do it. Like getting on a plane, if I have luggage, I'll put it down and kiss the door when I walk in. I've gotten some weird looks."

Despite his on-screen persona's fear of flying, Ackles doesn't tend to share his co-star's superstitions. "I'm not going to walk under a ladder," he says, "but I don't keep the same socks on for two months." Padalecki also doesn't like to walk under ladders.

"I'll find myself just walking around them," he admits. But one thing he's not superstitious about is the classic black cat. "If a black cat crosses my path, I'm just like, 'Oh, that's a cat. I want to go pet it.'"

Interestingly, Padalecki has mixed feelings about palm readings. "I went to a palm reader years ago for a blind date, and I don't remember exactly what she said, but she said I was going to be rich

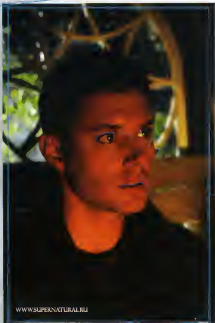
and have a bad love life. And I was like, 'That's crappy. Can you switch it?' So, good news and bad news. But it was kind of lucky and funny, and she was kind of crazy." Padalecki hasn't forgotten what the palm reader said, and he confides that a part of him is just waiting for his love life to get messed up.

As you've no doubt surmised, Padalecki feels he's "a 50-50 split" when it comes to believing in the supernatural. "I don't necessarily believe in it because I'm very much a creature of what I see, and I've never seen or ever had any experiences with the supernatural. But I also realize that it's a big world and big universe, and it's hard to believe we're the only things out there, you know? Things have definitely happened that made me go, 'What was that?'" He's also heard enough stories from people who have first-hand experiences that he can't help but think, "You know what? It's hard to believe that there's nothing out there." I've never had any doubt.



WENSHU SUPERNATURAL

"IF THERE'S A NOISE
IN THE OTHER ROOM
AT NIGHT AND I WAKE
UP I HAVE A LOT
MORE CONFIDENCE
WALKING INTO THAT
ROOM AND GOING 'I
KNOW EXACTLY WHAT
TO DO...' - JENSEN



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experience, as I guess I'm a non-believer, but my eyes and my mind are open to it, believe me."

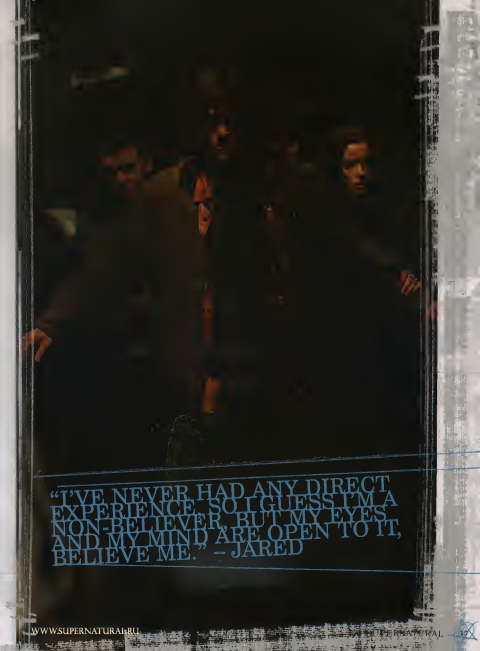
Considering the subject matter of *Supernatural*, it'd seem likely that the show's sets would attract curious - or angry - supernatural entities. When asked if there have been any unusual occurrences on set, Ackles nods his head emphatically. "Every day man!" He goes, then amends his statement. "No, there hasn't been anything..." But whether he's just joking or backpedaling to cover up the terrifying truth, we'll never know. However, he does elaborate: "We're so used to 100-plus people working on set, so the bangs and the things dropping and just working on set itself is scary in its own right, but I don't think we've had anything to write home about as far as 'Whoa! We're dealing with something that's actually *person*!'"

Overall in terms of the supernatural, Ackles says, "I don't necessarily believe in the whole ghosts and goblins and demons and stuff like that. I kind of always say that I'm a bit of a realist, and I'd like to think there's some sort of an explanation for sliding doors or noises in the night and stuff like that. But I'll tell you one thing, if they ever come around, I know what to do now."

Ackles jokes that he carries around "holy water, salt, shotgun" - all the normal stuff. No, but it is funny I did a talk show and I was asked what some of the things are and I started rattling them off. I thought, "Wow, I really know this stuff." And it was wild, because there is a whole subculture of people that actually believe in and buy into this stuff and use those formulas and those tactics and those weapons against evil spirits. And I'm starting to know this stuff personally. It's a unique experience.

"If there's a noise in the other room at night and I wake up, I have a lot more confidence walking into that room and going, 'I know exactly what to do...' It's definitely given me a confidence that I wouldn't have otherwise."

The underlying, unspoken advice that both Ackles and Padalecki are giving is that we should all watch *Supernatural* episodes repeatedly so we can be sure we'll know what to do the next time we have a supernatural encounter... and that's fine by us! ☺



"I'VE NEVER HAD ANY DIRECT
EXPERIENCE, SO I GUESS I'M A
NON-BELIEVER, BUT MY EYES
AND MY MIND ARE OPEN TO IT,
BELIEVE ME." - JARED



THE LADY IS A

Many Supernatural guest actors have caused a stir, but few have been as surprising as Amber Benson of *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* fame, playing very much against type as vampire queen, Lenore. We caught up with Amber to talk about effluvia, blood-suckers, doing stunts, and cowing hostal

Writers: Anne Berkeley

Multi-talented Amber Benson is an actress who's also a writer/director/producer (of the independent feature films *Chance and Lovers*, *Lies And Lunatics*), novelist (the *Ghosts Of Albion* books with Christopher Golden and her upcoming solo work *Death's Daughter*) and comic book writer (*Buffy* comics with Golden and the vampire serial comic *Demon Father John's Pinwheel Blues*). Benson is best known to genre TV audiences, however, for helping fight vampires as the witch Tara on seasons four through six of *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*. Last year, she got to actually play a vampire herself in the *Bloodlust* episode from season two of *Supernatural*. And not just any vampire – Benson's character Lenore is the leader of a group who subsist on animal blood rather than attacking humans, confounding the Winchester brothers' long-held views on bloodsuckers.

The Official Supernatural Magazine: How did you become involved with Supernatural?

Amber Benson: They simply offered me the role. They've had a lot of cool *Buffy*/*Angel* alumni on the show, so I was pleased that they thought of me.

Had you watched Supernatural before becoming involved with it?

I'm not really a television connoisseur. Just like with *Buffy*, I had caught a few episodes and thought they were doing

some really cool stuff on the show. I was totally excited to come on board and play for an episode.

Had you ever wanted to play a vampire before?

I tried to talk [Buffy creator] Joss Whedon into letting me go all vamp on Buffy, but alas, it was not on the cards.

What were your original ideas about vampires like?

I've always enjoyed the dark side of vampire mythology, but it was nice to see *Supernatural* explore the more altruistic end of the vampire spectrum.

Did working on Buffy and writing the Ghosts of Albion books, which have a vampire character, and Demon Father John's Pinwheel Blues, which features pretty ferocious vamps, affect your view of vampires?

Not particularly. I was much more influenced by Bram Stoker and Anne Rice. I was exposed to both of those authors at an early age, and I think that they both sort of shaped my ideas on vampirism.

Did this view affect how you played the character?

Supernatural went in the other direction from what I have always found fascinating about the vampire

myth. It was cool to see the show deal with the "nice" side of vampirism.

Your Supernatural character is somewhat more dominant than many of the characters you've played. Was that fun, a challenge, or both?

I think I kind of got typecast as the character I played on Buffy, and since it can be bit stifling as an actor to just repeat the same "type" over and over again, I really like when I get to play an aggressive, dominant character. Also, there are no preconceptions when you're working on something new, and you can put any kind of spin you want on that character. It's very freeing to just be able to act without worrying about offending or hurting your audience.

Did you have to work with prosthetics to play Lenore?

I had amazing fake teeth that were just killer-looking, and some of it was CGI (as well).

Did you have to have molds taken of your face and mouth?

I had a mold taken of my teeth.

What was that like?

It was kind of gross and kind of super-cool at the same time.

IT WAS NICE
TO SEE
SUPERNATURAL
EXPLORE THE
MORE
ALTRUISTIC
END OF THE
VAMPIRE
STRUCTURE



I TRIED TO TALK
JOSS WHEDON INTO
LETTING ME GO ALL
VAMP ON *BUFFY*
BUT ALAS, IT WAS
NOT IN THE CARDS

How were the prosthetics to work with – were they a help or a hindrance with playing the character of Lennor?

Definitely a help. They got you in character faster than anything else.

How were Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki to work with?

Both of them are total sweeties and they are awesome to work with.

Did you have any creative input into Lennor's dialogue or wardrobe?

I liked what they gave me originally with the script and wardrobe and make up, so I just let them do their thing, and relaxed.

How much of your own stunt work did you do?

I leave the stunt work to the professional guys and gals, who then make me look like I know what the hell I'm doing!

I understand you did a bit of your own stunt work on the Sci-Fi Channel movie *Greyhounds* last year, playing a medieval warrior/prisoner.

I had to run away from an explosion. It was a real explosion Jonathan [LePake], who plays my love interest, and I go running by a building, come out to where the camera is – the explosion happens right as we're running past, so we have to jump so we're up in the air. I wasn't very good at it [Laughs].

Is there anything educational about working on *Supernatural* as opposed to other series?

It was a wonderful way to work on, and the cast and crew were easy to communicate with. They just let me do my thing, and I got to have a good time.

What have you done since?

I just did a pilot for the Lifetime network called *Long Island Confidential* and a movie of the week (also) for Lifetime, *Seven Things To Do Before I'm Thirty*.

What projects are you working on at the moment?

I'm writing my first solo novel for Penguin Books called *Death's Daughter*.

Now that you've written a number of books, comic books, and screenplays, does writing come easier for you?

It's easier. You get into the groove, you know how each [character] thinks, you know what their motivations are. The more time you spend with a character, the more in-depth [you can get] – that's just how it is. You just start to know how the character thinks.

"I WAS REALLY PLEASED WITH HOW THE EPISODE TURNED OUT. I BELIEVE WE HAD A LOT OF SHOTS OF THE GUY (JOHN LOWDOY BOOTS) WAS WEARING."

Do you ever write characters with a particular performer in mind?

Very rarely. I think the only time I've ever done that is, [seeing] Shanda Bullock when she was in *A Theory Called Love*, I thought she was so wonderful and so winning and had great comic timing – that's what I love, that's my favorite, is overkill comedy, and she's just crack at it. She knows how to do it right. So I always have her in mind when I'm writing [comedy] scripts/ dialogues. It's always, "Oh, she'd be great." But that's it, that's the only time I've ever written with somebody in mind.

I've talked things to people once I knew that I was going to be using them – when I was working *Loose, Loose And Loose*. I knew I was going to have Christine Ebersole in it and I really tried to tailor stuff to her.

Do you think you might appear again on *Supernatural* some time? You never know.

Is there anything else you'd like to say about the experience of working on *Supernatural*?

I was really pleased with how the episode turned out, but I really wish there were more shots of the [actor's] cowboy boots I was wearing! ☺





QUOTH THE RAVEN

Words: Paul Simpson

If you've worn out your DVDs of the first couple of seasons and are still desperate for a *Supernatural* fix, there are new ways to follow the adventures of the Winchester boys. In addition to the comic books telling early tales of John Winchester, there are three spin-off novels, two of which have been written by prolific tie-in author Keith R.A. DeCandido.

Kith R.A. DeCandido clearly loves *Supernatural*. Chatting on his phone from his home

in New York's "Big Apple borough," the Bronx—the location of *Supernatural*, the first of his two *Supernatural* novels—he expresses his nearly a quarter of a century of love for the series that have combined to make the writer a successful author. A talented writer, editor and musician, DeCandido has been writing for a living for nearly 15 years, with contributions to *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* franchises including *Marvel Comics*, *Star Wars: The Manga Series*, *Parascope*, *Doctor Who*, and *Star Trek*.

The opportunity to work on *Supernatural* came through DeCandido's friendship with *SD-Comics* editor John Moynihan. "When the *Supernatural* license fell into his lap, I was one of the people he thought of because he knew my work," DeCandido explains. "I had gotten into the



Keith R.A. DeCandido

show during the run of the first season, so I was ready a bit. I threw two pitches at him. He liked them both, and we went with *Awake*. When an opportunity to do another book came along, we just went with the other pitch."

Awake brings the Winchester boys into contact with the world of Edgar Allan Poe, a famous resident of the Bronx. The 19th-century author and poet is generally remembered for his macabre horror and supernatural tales, making him a good fit for the show. "I wanted to tell a story that took place specifically in the Bronx," DeCandido adds. "Poe lived in the Bronx for a good chunk of his later life. He was old there, and he maintained a residence until he died. I wanted to have the boys come to New York, and I didn't think it was very likely that the show would go to the Bronx."

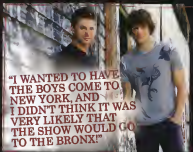
The story is very specifically set between the season two episode *Crossed* and *Creation*, allowing DeCandido to incorporate those elements of the *Supernatural* mythology that had been established at that point. "The funniest thing about doing tie-ins to stories that are on the air is trying to keep up," DeCandido admits. "You have to pick a spot where you can fit the story in, and have it take place between these two episodes, because if you don't do that, you really run the risk of the book becoming out of date. You run that risk anyway, but it's less likely if you pick a good spot and plug it in. I think *Awake* comes up with the pie of the show as established at that time."

DeCandido openly admits that he "screwed up Dean's eye color" in the

book, and even makes a joke about it at his own expense in his sequel novel, *Stone Day*. But later this year, inevitably, he defends what some on-line fans have perceived as an error in the book. In a conversation between the brothers, Sam reveals that their father actually helped with the process of getting him into Stanford. "There are two reasons for that,"

right form of paperwork. It just couldn't happen, and I don't think Sam's that good a forger."

"I also thought it fit John's character in a lot of ways, because there was a lot of stuff that John didn't tell the boys about. Stuff that they really could have used knowing about—things like vampires. They didn't know there was a whole community of hundreds out there, all of whom know John. To me that fits the psychology of him on the one hand wanting the boys to help him out, and on the other hand protecting them and keeping them safe. He was doing that by not telling them things. I think facilitating



DeCandido says. "In *Phantom Cowboy*, Jerry mentions that John was very proud of Sam, and was really thrilled that he was going to Stanford. Also, there's the reality of what it takes to get in the role at any university, and Stanford is particular. A couple of friends who work in the financial aid industry told me that there is absolutely no way that Sam could have gone to Stanford on a full scholarship without a parent or guardian filling out

Sam going to Stanford fit in with that—but by the same token, he was still pleased at him for wanting to do it, because John was ultimately a learning mass of contradictions, as are most people. This was something I really thought was part of John's psychology and psychosis—he was a very messed up guy, not without reason. I understand why people don't necessarily agree with it, but at least there's evidence on screen to support it."



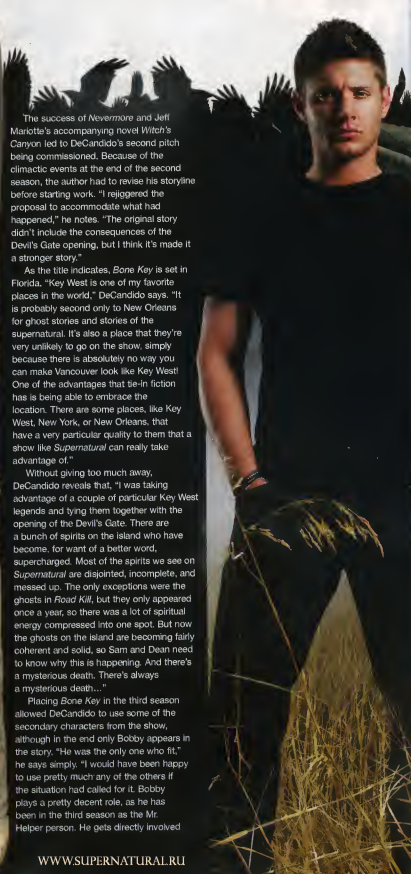
Edgar Allan Poe

1809 – 1849

Known for his macabre short stories, Edgar Allan Poe is one of the most influential writers ever, having been pivotal in both the development of science fiction and in inventing detective fiction as we know it.

Born in Boston and orphaned as a child, he dropped out of university and was court-martialed out of West Point military academy before starting his writing career. Poe built up a reputation for gothic stories, including *The Masque of the Red Death*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, and *The Tell-Tale Heart*, as well as the hugely popular poem *The Raven*, about a forbidding raven that repeats the word "Nevermore."

Controversially, Poe married his cousin, Virginia Clemm, when she was just 13-years-old and she later died at the age of 24, devastating Poe. Poe's own death at the age of 40 was mysterious, attributed to everything from brain congestion to alcoholism to rabies. Before his death, Poe was found delirious, wearing someone else's clothes, and calling out the name "Reynolds," though no one knew to whom he was referring. Poe's medical records, including the death certificate, were all lost. It seems fitting that a gothic mystery writer's own demise was so mystifying.



The success of *Nevermore* and Jeff Mariotte's accompanying novel *Witch's Canyon* led to DeCandido's second pitch being commissioned. Because of the climactic events at the end of the second season, the author had to revise his storyline before starting work. "I rejiggered the proposal to accommodate what had happened," he notes. "The original story didn't include the consequences of the Devil's Gate opening, but I think it's made it a stronger story."

As the title indicates, *Bone Key* is set in Florida. "Key West is one of my favorite places in the world," DeCandido says. "It is probably second only to New Orleans for ghost stories and stories of the supernatural. It's also a place that they're very unlikely to go on the show, simply because there is absolutely no way you can make Vancouver look like Key West! One of the advantages that tie-in fiction has is being able to embrace the location. There are some places, like Key West, New York, or New Orleans, that have a very particular quality to them that a show like *Supernatural* can really take advantage of."

Without giving too much away, DeCandido reveals that, "I was taking advantage of a couple of particular Key West legends and tying them together with the opening of the Devil's Gate. There are a bunch of spirits on the island who have become, for want of a better word, supercharged. Most of the spirits we see on *Supernatural* are disjointed, incomplete, and messed up. The only exceptions were the ghosts in *Road Kill*, but they only appeared once a year, so there was a lot of spiritual energy compressed into one spot. But now the ghosts on the island are becoming fairly coherent and solid, so Sam and Dean need to know why this is happening. And there's a mysterious death. There's always a mysterious death..."

Placing *Bone Key* in the third season allowed DeCandido to use some of the secondary characters from the show, although in the end only Bobby appears in the story. "He was the only one who fit," he says simply. "I would have been happy to use pretty much any of the others if the situation had called for it. Bobby plays a pretty decent role, as he has been in the third season as the Mr. Helper person. He gets directly involved



in the action in the latter part of the book."

DeCandido is appreciative of the assistance given to him by the makers of *Supernatural*. "They were very helpful – I saw all of the scripts for the current season before they aired, which was particularly handy, as *Dream A Little Dream Of Me* provided some back-story on Bobby which I was able to incorporate into the book." Ruby's revelation in *Malice In Wonderland* that most demons were once human also aided the writer. "We get in the demons' heads on a couple of occasions," he notes.

To DeCandido's surprise, the final sign-off on the novel came from *Supernatural* creator Eric Kripke himself. "Normally, the people running the show don't have time to do that – they're too busy running the show," DeCandido says, dryly. "I suspect this was a fortunate concatenation of circumstances, because when I turned in the book, the writers' strike was still going on and all the episodes of the show in the can had already been produced."

He's also grateful to the fans. "There's one fan who actually transcribed and

worked out what the exorcism ritual was, which was very handy when I needed it for *Bone Key!*"

DeCandido thinks that the brothers work better and are easier to write when they're working as a team. "When I had to break them up in *Nevermore*, because they were investigating different parts of the story, one of them wasn't necessarily harder to write than the other, but they're easier to write together because they play off each other. I made an effort in *Bone Key* to keep them together where possible – although I did separate them when the plot called for it."

He feels that the show appeals to viewers on "a bunch of different levels. It makes use of existing lore that people are familiar with, and reinterprets that for an early 21st-century TV audience. It could easily be a show about two pretty men, but they've made an effort to build a mythology [around it]. Something that's established in one episode is then honored in a later one."

"It's fun – the best dramas are hilarious – and it makes the best use of music of any show on TV. And it has a really cool car – never underestimate the power of a really cool car!"

SUPERNATURAL: NEVERMORE

By Keith R.A. DeCandido

Set between the season two episodes *Crossroads Blues* and *Crossroads...*

As a favor to Ash, Sam and Dean head off to New York to investigate a haunting. Ash's friend Manfred, a musician past his prime, is living in a haunted house, but once the brothers arrive Sam becomes intrigued by two incidents he's read about in the newspaper which seem to come straight from the stories of horror novelist Edgar Allan Poe – a man found bricked up in a basement, and the deaths of two students at the hands of an orangutan on Furdham University's campus in the Bronx.

Visiting the zoo, Sam and Dean learn that the orangutan had been

hyped up on amphetamines, and while Sam has a look round Poe's old cottage, Dean reads up on Percival Samuels, an early 20th-century spiritualist who peddled a resurrection spell. To their horror, they realize that someone is trying to recreate the spell: the locations of the various murder scenes connect together to form the ngl that Samuels used.

That night they meet the rest of Manfred's band, and then encounter the spirit – who is a rock chick chanting "Love me" and cackling. They use rock salt to disperse her temporarily before going to investigate

the house where the body was bricked up. To their surprise, they walk straight into the arms of the law in the person of Detective Marina McBain, who knows far more about Sam and Dean Winchester than either boy feels comfortable with...

Find out more by reading the novel, published by Harper Entertainment and available wherever books are sold.



MYTHS &



CURSE BOXES

Constructed by John's on-off friends and fellow hunter Aubrey Singer, these artefacts are built to hold items including the victim's foot sought by Male Teller and others. Discovered with knives, they contain evil or cursed items, and are very difficult to open. They lie in with the myths of Pandora's Box, the Greek myth of a box that contained all the evils of the world. Once opened, the evils were released from the box, with only Hope remaining.

Soccer Trophy

Dean's 1965 Division Championship soccer trophy may not be a part of the lock-up's defenses, but it is a sign of how much John cared about his boys, even if he does have it locked away. Typically his memento of Dean at a little more hunter-oriented - Dean's first seven-off shotgun, made when he was in high school.



Gun Trap

He could draw on his experiences serving in Vietnam, as well as his time as a hunter. John set up this trap with a gun pointed up on a table and two's about set to go off with a trigger. Dean's feature strongly in mythology. In Greek mythology, Hercules had to hunt the Erymanthian boar as one of his legendary 12 Labors, while in Norse mythology, the boar was regarded as a protective totem in war.



NEW YORK STATE CHRONICLE

LOCK-UP RAID UNCOVERS OCCULT LAIR

By BOB CHAMBERLAIN

Following a call about a break-in at a lock-up near Buffalo, police arrived to find a macabre scene.

Inside the lock-up in question, along with possible occult symbols scattered across the floor were a number of suspicious-looking boxes. Police are currently running tests on the forensic evidence found, some personal effects, and on the unidentified contents of many jars and bottles found on the shelves inside.

The authorities had to proceed with care on entering the scene, as a makeshift tripwire had been set up, which was connected to an alarm. Once it was trap had achieved its desired effect, the suspect when apprehended would be facing homicide charges.

Investigating further, police found an arsenal of weaponry in the lock-up, including an anti-personnel landmine - a weapon prohibited for civilian use - and under severe restrictions even for the military.

Police say the lock-up, listed under the obvious pseudonym of Edgar Cayce, had been recently visited not long before police arrived, as dust had been disturbed and a foot had clearly been removed from the scene.

Authorities believe the lock-up may have been used in connection with a religious cult, rituals, or secret societies. Following to assassinate religious targets investigations are ongoing.



This issue: **HOMUNCULUS**

LEGENDS

Words: Neil Edwards



Chapter VII

Homunculus

The myth of the homunculus is closely linked to the study of alchemy – the attempt to turn base metals into gold, and to find a medicine that would be able to cure any disease.

Homunculi are often connected with mandrake. It was believed that this plant grew where souls would escape from hanged men, and that its roots resembled a human to some extent. If the root was picked under certain conditions, it was believed to develop into a miniature human that would protect its owner from harm.

Mandrake has long been used in magic rituals, and according to legends, when the root was dug up, it would scream and kill anyone who heard it.

DEVIL'S TRAP

Shown many times to be a potent weapon in containing and controlling demons (as Fluffy and the possessed Meg, among others, have both discovered), this mystical symbol is a vital defence in John's secret hide-out. It comes from the Lesser Key of Solomon – a grimoire from the 17th century.



FBI



Photographs taken from
CCTV 2008

**WANTED FOR MURDER, GRAVE
DECEITATION, THEFT FRAUD,
SUSPICIOUS AVOIDANCE**

JOHN WINCHESTER

Aliases: Edgar Capes
Nazi Assassin | Grey McCallum

DESCRIPTION

Year of Birth: 1904
Place of Birth: Indiana, USA
Hair: Brown, graying
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5' 2"
Build: Stocky
Nationality: American
Occupation: Farmer car mechanics,
former US Marine (highly decorated)
Known relatives: Dean (son), John (son), Mary (wife, deceased)
Remarks: Highly dangerous due to military training; mobile place death
of spouse in 1983 in suspicious circumstances

CONSIDER ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS
PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE.
TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI
OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.**

FREE



**Illustration for your
Supernatural map!**



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SUPERNATURAL

"I GOTTA SAY,
SCHOOL DOES GET
IN THE WAY
SOMETIMES!"
RIDGE CANIPE

When we met the young Dean Winchester in *Something Wicked*, and again in *A Very Supernatural Christmas* with the young Sam, they proved an instant hit with fans. The actors who played them, Ridge Canipe and Colin Ford, already have a string of TV and film credits under their belts at the ages of 13 and 11, but they found the time to talk to *The Official Supernatural Magazine*, without school getting in the way!

The Official Supernatural Magazine:

Ridge, let's start with you. How did you get the role of Dean?

Ridge Canipe: My agent told me about the audition and I went in for it, then she called again and told me I had a call-back, which is when you go in and read for the director and producer. I was worried that I wasn't going to get to do it because I was working on another film in Portland at the time and the dates clashed, but they managed to work it out, which was great.

Was it a similar process for you, Colin?

Colin Ford: I had to audition for the role, too. I had never really seen the show, but when I got the script I really liked the



Dean and Sam Winchester were born for demon hunting, as we found out when we met the younger versions of the brothers, played by Ridge Canipe and Colin Ford. We caught up with them to find out why it's not a good idea to watch *Supernatural* alone, about imitating Sam and Dean, and just how cool Jared and Jensen are...

WWW.SUPERNATURALRU

character of Sam. After I got out of the audition, I thought it had gone very well. A couple of days after that I got a call from my agent who told me I'd got a call-back, then another call telling me I'd booked it. I was really excited.

You each manage to capture Dean and Sam's mannerisms so well. Did you spend any time with Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki beforehand?

RC: I met Jensen a day or so before I started shooting, so I didn't really get a chance to imitate him then. But I'd seen the show before I started working on it, so that's probably how I picked things up. Jared and Jensen are the coolest guys ever, seriously. They're hilarious, and just the funniest guys.

CF: I didn't get to spend any time with Jared before I filmed the episode but I did do some research on Sam prior to filming. A couple of days after I got the role I went out and bought the entire first season and started watching episodes that week, and on the plane ride to Vancouver. But I did get to meet Jared



Words: Kate Lloyd

YES IT BOYS

BE BOYS



CF: I really like *Crossroad Blues* in season two, where they sell their soul to the Devil and get to do whatever they want for 10 years. But my favorite episode is *Scarecrow*, where they go into the orchard and the scarecrow has a life and it slices people's heads off.

How did you both get into the acting business?

RC: I used to watch movies all the time when I was little, and when I was six, I said, "I want to do that, I think it'll be fun!" [My family] knew someone who knew an agent at the agency I'm with now, and I've been with them the whole time.

CF: I've been acting since I was five, and I love it. It's almost become a lifestyle for me.

Is it difficult juggling school with your acting?

CF: There are times when it is hard to juggle schoolwork, especially during things like finals, but I've maintained a really good schedule where I get all my schoolwork and

acting done, then I hang out with my friends. My schoolwork always comes first, even if it means catching up with it on the weekend. But I think it's worth it, and thankfully I've made all A's this year.

RC: I gotta say, school does get in the way sometimes! [Laughs] But seriously, we do three hours of school on-set every day. Usually it's one on one with the tutors, so we probably get more stuff done than if we were actually at school.

What do your friends make of your success?

RC: Most of my friends are actors too, so we're all going through the same thing. But for the ones who aren't, it's really no big deal.

CF: They're really cool about it. They don't mind when I have to go to a shoot, because they know I'm doing the same work they are, and not just ditching school for any reason. We mostly don't talk about acting, we just play sports, like

and Jensen on the last day I was filming. They were both really, really nice. Ridge and I got to take pictures with them, and we talked for a couple of minutes, but we didn't have much time to hang out because our scene was over and theirs was just starting [to shoot].

Are you both fans of the show now?

CF: I think it's a great show. I thought it was a little scary at first, but I'm kind of hooked on it now. I went out and bought the second season a couple of weeks ago, and I'm on disc four; I absolutely love it. I'm not as scared watching it now – it's just really fascinating to watch.

RC: It's probably my favorite show now. I'm obsessed. Even if you've been on the show and you know it's fake, it's still pretty scary.

What other kinds of things scare you?

CF: Scary movies scare me, but not as much anymore since I've been watching *Supernatural*. But I will admit something... I don't really like to watch *Supernatural* alone or at night. I think it's much more fun to watch it with someone there with me, and preferably during the day!

RC: I'm scared of chainsaws, they creep me out a little bit. And bees – I'm scared of bees.

Do you have a favorite *Supernatural* episode?

"JARED AND JENSEN ARE THE COOLEST GUYS EVER, SERIOUSLY."
RIDGE CANIPE



football and basketball, and I've been fortunate to make all the school teams. Outside of school we pretty much just watch movies and play X-Box.

You both mentioned earlier how cool Jensen and Jared are. Which other actors would you like to work with?

RC: The list is endless. I think Robert De Niro, maybe. Or Al Pacino... those guys

CF: That's really hard. There are so many people I would work with in a heartbeat. The first actress that I ever worked with was Reese Witherspoon in *Sweet Home Alabama*, and I was about five years old. It was my first movie. I really like and admire Reese. I think she's a great role model for not only me, but other actors and actresses in Hollywood. She's also a great student - she went to Stanford. That's a school that I would like to apply to. As far as actors go, I love Leonardo DiCaprio, Christian Bale, Sandra Bullock, Matt Damon. I would love to work with Brad Pitt again, and George Clooney and Matthew McConaughey. All of those...

Back to the episode *A Very Supernatural Christmas*. What's your favorite memory of the shoot?

CF: I loved the whole shoot, but more specifically I'd loved getting to work with Ridge. Ridge is a great actor, and I'd definitely like to work with him again. We've become good friends. Also, getting to go to Vancouver was great. There's a shackhouse there called *Gotham*, and it's really, really good. And the shopping, and Stanley Park, and the aquarium. Everything about Vancouver is great.

RC: I loved working with Colin too, and also meeting all the great people who are part of this production, and just getting a chance to be on the show, basically. I also met Eric Kripke, who's a great guy.

And what was the most challenging part of working on the show?

RC: Just trying to do the role justice. Jensen puts so much into the show, it would be kind of stupid not to portray it right.

Here at *The Official Supernatural Magazine* we'd love to see you guys reprising your roles as young Dean and Sam. Would you be interested if the opportunity arose?



"I DON'T REALLY LIKE TO WATCH SUPERNATURAL ALONE OR AT NIGHT. I THINK IT'S MUCH MORE FUN TO WATCH IT WITH SOMEONE THERE WITH ME, AND PREFERABLY DURING THE DAY!"

COLIN FORD

CF: Oh yeah, I would love to come back and play Sam again, because it was just a really great experience. As I said, I love Vancouver, I could live there,

so you can quote me on this... I will go there for however many scripts the writers can write.

RC: I'd love nothing more. It would be awesome. They did mention that there was a possibility they were going to write us in to an upcoming episode, but I don't think that worked out. But hopefully, Colin and I will be able to go back [soon].



TURN THE PAGE FOR A LOOK BACK AT THE ALREADY CLASSIC FESTIVE EPISODE, *A VERY SUPERNATURAL CHRISTMAS*...

JOHN'S JOURNAL

Words: Jayne Nelson

A VERY SUPERNATURAL CHRISTMAS

Episode: 3.8 Written By: Jeremy Carver Directed By: J. Miller Tobin
Guests: *starring: Ridge Canipe (Young Dean), Colin Ford (Young Sam), Spencer Garrett (Edward Carrison/Pagan God Guy), Mervyn Gann (Madge Carrison/Pagan God Lady)*

In the middle of the night one year ago in Seattle, a jolly grandfather is pretending to be Santa Claus while his grandson watches him in awe. It's an idyllic Christmas scene in an ordinary suburban home... right up until the moment the unfortunate old man is dragged up the chimney and killed!

A year on, Sam and Dean investigate a similar case in Ypsilanti, Michigan, finding a bloody tooth in the fireplace. Sam wonders if Santa has an evil brother who might be attacking wicked people, in much the same way that Santa rewards good girls and boys. Dean isn't impressed because Santa, obviously, isn't real. Sam reminds him that he already knows that, as Dean told him so when they were kids.

Apparently, both victims paid a visit to "Santa's Village" prior to their deaths, so the guys decide to check out the seedy Santa Claus who works there (severely offending an Elf in the process).

Meanwhile, through a flashback, we see a young Sam in a down-at-heel motel room wrapping up a Christmas present for his dad, who's out on a hunt. It's clear that he doesn't know where his dad really is, though, and Dean's not telling him...

In the present, Sam and Dean investigate the suspicious Santa, only to discover he's not a murderous chimney-dweller but a fat old hush who spends his nights watching cheap porn while getting stoned. When he catches them, they pretend to be carolers before running away. Elsewhere, however, evil is afoot: a little boy watches in horror as something climbs down the chimney of his house, goes upstairs, shoves his dad in a bag and then vanishes up the chimney again...

Exploring the crime scene the next day, Sam notices



OW, THAT SMARTS!
Winchester wounds and woes.....
Both guys get knocked out and sliced with knives, but nothing really beats the loss of Sam's fingernail. Watch it horn between your own fingers!

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Tracking the tracks...

"Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"
(Rosemary Clooney)

"Silent Night"
(Sam and Dean)

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TRIVIA

Did you spot this?

The Christmas tree Sam whips up for the final scene is decorated with the air freshener for trees you'd hang from a car's rear-view mirror. Guess he didn't have any ornaments...

a Christmas wreath on the wall that matches one in the previous victim's house. The wreath contains meadowweet, a favorite plant of pagan gods, and from this the guys deduce that the evildoer is one of the old pagan winter gods who used to demand sacrifices in return for mild weather. They need to track down the person who made the wreaths, because they're the one summoning the killer!

Meanwhile, Sam can't understand why Dean is suddenly looking forward to Christmas and wants to celebrate it - after all, their childhood Christmases were pretty lousy. Dean tells him that it's because he knows it's his last one, and he wants to make it a good one. Sam can't do it, though, because he finds it too upsetting; this will be one Christmas he doesn't want to remember.

Speaking of Sam's bad memories... we see the boys in the past again. Young Sam has discovered one of John's guns and challenges Dean to tell him what their dad really does for a living. Cornered, Dean has no choice but to tell his brother that their dad is a "superhero" who kills monsters. Evil creatures do exist, but Santa Claus doesn't. Young Sam is understandably devastated by the news.

In the present, the adult Winchester brothers are paying a visit to Madge and Edward Carrigan, the couple responsible for the wreaths. They're ridiculously jolly and friendly - obviously far too good to be true. And so they are, as the boys discover when they sneak into their cellar and find a bloodstained slaughterhouse. Unfortunately, the Carrigans catch them in the act.

Captured and tied to chairs in the couple's kitchen, the brothers discover the Carrigans are pagan gods who are lying low, killing only a few people every year. They prepare the Winchesters to be sacrificed, including ripping off Sam's fingernail with a pair of pliers! But their evil plan is interrupted by the doorbell. Their victims escape while the Carrigans are distracted and, after a short fight, both gods are dispatched by Christmas tree branches through the heart, as pagan gods are vulnerable to evergreen

CHRISTMAS SPIRITS

The truth behind pagan Christmas sacrifices

Forget twinkly lights and frosty nights - there's nothing like a couple of bloodthirsty pagan gods to get you feeling festive. In *A Very Supernatural Christmas*, the gods in question have been slaying a number of people every winter in line with sacrificial tradition.

Pagan customs and symbols, including bringing trees indoors and kissing under mistletoe, are traditional parts of Christmas celebrations all around the world. Although it's far less common to perform sacrificial rituals now (unless you count carving up a turkey), back in the day it was normal for some Scandinavian tribes to perform

a mid-winter sacrifice lasting for three nights. Most literature indicates that horses and other animals were butchered to appease both Frey, the goddess of peace, and other local gods to get them to warm up winter's icy temperatures!

Human sacrifice, however, was not unheard of, and often slaves were the unlucky ones put forward to help bring winter to an end. Thankfully today we have central heating and can enjoy the snow, decorations, and feasting without worrying about getting our throats cut! That is, unless there's a case the Winchester brothers are investigating.

wood. The festive season is safe again!

Back in the past, young Dean is trying to cheer up Sam by giving him presents (stolen from a house down the street) and telling him their dad popped in during the night (which he obviously didn't). Sam doesn't buy it, but is grateful nonetheless. He gives Dean the present we saw him wrapping for their father. Dean opens it... to discover an amulet necklace.

The amulet is still hanging around Dean's neck to this day, and he's wearing it as he walks into the brothers' latest motel room to discover Sam has decorated it just for him. Yes, Sam has decided to make his brother's last Christmas a good one after all, and they exchange lame presents and drink eggnog as the snow starts to fall outside the window.

EPISODE COORDINATOR:

[02.11.11]

Check out this episode's location on your Supernatural map... What's that? Turn to page 98 for more info!

THE ROAD SO FAR

GOADING THE ENEMY

How to trash-talk your foe, Winchester style...

Dean (to evil pagan god):

"You fudgin' touch me again, I'll fudgin' kill you!"



INTERVIEW
MIKE ROHL
DIRECTOR

Forum index pages

Lipsius denuo castigavit
& recensuit.

DIRECTOR'S CUT:

MIKE ROHL

DIRECTOR MIKE ROHL IS BASED IN VANCOUVER, AND HE'S A BIG FAN OF ACTION AND SCIENCE FICTION, WITH A CREDIT LIST THAT INCLUDES THE DEAD ZONE, KYLE XY, THE OUTER LIMITS, AND POLTERGEIST: THE LEGACY. IT WAS PERHAPS INEVITABLE THEN THAT HE'D END UP DIRECTING EPISODES OF SUPERNATURAL. AND, BASED ON THE ANSWERS HE GIVES IN THE FOLLOWING Q&A WITH THE OFFICIAL SUPERNATURAL MAGAZINE, IT'S PRETTY SAFE TO SAY THAT THIS LEO AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR HAS HAD SOME OF THE BEST EXPERIENCES OF HIS CAREER WORKING ON THE SET OF SUPERNATURAL.

Words: Nicholas Knight



Director Mike Pratt (above center, crumpling into the waste) with James Michael and James Michael's father, James Michael Pratt.



The Official *Supernatural* Magazine: How did you first get into directing?

Mike Hohli: I got into directing through the performing end of things. I started as an improvisational comic years ago in nightclubs and theaters. I realized that working for 20 dollars a show just wasn't going to cut it, so I got myself into the Director's Guild of Canada and worked my way up through the assistant director ranks and eventually got to direct a show called *First Wave*. Then I did a few episodes of *Smallville*, and since that's a CW show, I connected with a lot of the same people [who are] involved with *Supernatural* when it came along.

Smallville, *The Outer Limits*, *First Wave*, and many other shows that you've worked on are in the realm of science fiction - is that a genre you're specifically interested in, or is it just a coincidence that your career path worked out that way?

I've always been interested in action and science fiction and stuff like that, and it just became an anomaly of the town I'm living in right now [Vancouver] that for several years it attracted a lot of sci-fi-based shows. So the opportunity was there, but it was also pretty coincidental. It works out great, because I'm a fan of the genre.

What was it about *Supernatural* that you were specifically drawn to?

You get to work with the spirit of the week and stuff like that, and you get to put your own imprint on that spirit. But more than that, the show just really works for me. Starting out as an improv comic, I have a silly sense of humor that I love to have in my own life and this show offers a lot of chances to use that. I really love drama, and I love the effect that a strong horror story has on an audience. It's a nice combination - a little bit of entertainment. It's a full-bodied entertainment. I'm very privileged to be able to execute those three elements in one piece. It's a challenge, but it's a cool mix. Plus the action! Over an eight-day period, as a director, you've got to stretch your muscles in a lot of different ways and



really use the palette that you have as far as your skills go to be able to elicit comedy, because comedy directing is different than drama directing. For drama, you really want to make sure that you service the needs of the character and the arc of the character, and make sure that the performances are deep and honest, not just surface deep. And then, of course, [there's] the horror element - that's a whole different psychological thing, where you're actually manipulating the audience more than the characters. You use the characters to manipulate the expectations of the audience. Then it all becomes a balancing act of trying not to do too much of either one, and trying to make [the episode] a complete package.

What's it like working with Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles?

Those guys stand out in what I've done so far because what makes them unusual is the fact that they're fun guys to work with. They really like to have fun on the job. They take their jobs seriously but they also like to have a lot of fun along the way. I've got nothing but good things to say about them - they're both really charismatic young guys. They're in a really good place in their lives, too, so it's fun to watch them from the outside looking in because they get to be TV stars and work on a cool show, and you can tell that they don't take it for granted. They know that they've got something special here, so they want to work at it.

Are there any *Supernatural* guest stars that stand out in your memory?

The first *Supernatural* I did [*The Usual Suspects*] I got to work with Linda Blair, who of course came into the episode with this huge reputation and this legend behind her, being who she was from *The Exorcist*. So that was kinda cool to be able to do *Supernatural* and work with an actor that a lot of the fans had huge anticipations of coming on as a guest. So I felt an obligation to make sure that, as a director, I was really there to help her and make sure that her performance and her contribution to the show was as quality as possible. And she came in and she just did a really, really cool job. It was really fun to work with her.

Were there any particular challenges or rewards with working on your second episode, *Fallen From Grace*?

When I first got the script and the idea about doing a horror show in a prison, I knew it was gonna be challenging for sure because of the scope we wanted to pull off. But I think we pulled it off very well, definitely. And at the end of *Fallen From Grace*, there's a montage of the cops chasing the boys through what we think is the cemetery that they're in. As it turns out, they're in a different cemetery. The chaos of the music and the way we cut it together... it just came

off so well and it was fun to watch. One thing about *Supernatural* is they always pick very cool music, and it just puts the cherry on top of it for me.

What do you like most about your memorable episode *Bedtime Stories*?

I would say it was one of the coolest scripts I've ever gotten on any of the shows I've done. It's a horror show based on fairy tales, where the boys go through their adventure coming across these different events that all have parallels to fairy tales. For example, the beginning has the Three Little Pigs, which are three short, overweight brothers on a construction site who get attacked by some sort of force, which of course is the Big Bad Wolf. Throughout the show, Little Red Riding Hood shows up, her grandma shows up, the frog shows up, we've got Cinderella, we've got Snow White... and they're all very cleverly

molded into this script that was fun to do. The fun part was trying to subtly bring little homages to each of these things. There's a Hansel and Gretel section - two hikers go through the woods and they come across a house and this little old lady comes out. Once you start to figure out what they are, it's easy to see them. I just added little homages, like the little old lady has a gnarly old wooden cane that you see on a lot of the covers of *Hansel and Gretel* storybooks. Some of the shots that I did. I tried to emulate the artwork that you see in some of these storybooks; classic kinds of shots.

From the episodes you've directed, which *Supernatural* monster has been your favorite?

The first one [from *The Usual Suspects*] is probably my favorite just because it's one of the scariest. I mean, she's a spirit that walks around with her throat slit open, and she's dripping blood the whole time. She's my favorite, definitely.

"THE FIRST SUPERNATURAL I DID I GOT TO WORK WITH LINDA BLAIR, WHO OF COURSE CAME INTO THE EPISODE WITH THIS HUGE REPUTATION AND THIS HUGE LEGEND BEHIND HER, BEING WHO SHE WAS FROM *THE EXORCIST*."

Has anything scary ever happened on the set of one of your *Supernatural* episodes?

From time to time we work in a place called Riverview, which is an old mental hospital on the outskirts of Vancouver. It's not so much what happens on set, but it's that place. It's a turn-of-the-century mental hospital - a lot of bad stuff went down there, you just know it. That place has got some sort of vibe going on. Sometimes you come across weird feelings in hallways and some of the rooms. From crewmembers who have been laying cables by themselves, up a stairway or through an attic or stuff like that, there have been numerous reports of people



seeing something, feeling something, hearing something. And so when we go over there, working on a show like *Supernatural* tends to stir up the potential for that, and quite often you hear those stories.

Do you have any first-hand stories from Riverview?

I often go to the sets ahead of time before anybody else shows up, just to walk through and get a feeling for the sets and confirm my plan that I'm going to take when the crew shows up. And I swear to God, if you're there by yourself, just walking through those halls, sometimes you get these feelings that there's something there. Sometimes you feel like there's somebody watching you. That's the feeling I get, that there's somebody behind me or watching me. Just off the peripheral of your vision and stuff like that. And that's not just me saying it, that's actually happened to me. It's a place that's totally built for our show; it's perfect that we go there!

What's the most enjoyable aspect of working on *Supernatural*?

Working with Jared and Jensen. If you work on *Supernatural*, you have to be a good wrestler, because these guys, from right out of nowhere, they like to spontaneously attack a crewmember and just wrestle him to the ground. And they're *always* doing that. They're a couple of guys from Texas who just love to have fun. They like to mix it up with the crew quite a bit, and that's the fun part, because there's always something amazing that's going to happen when Jared and Jensen come on set because they're so spontaneous.

Will you be directing any more episodes of *Supernatural*?

I have another one coming up. I'm not sure exactly what script it's going to be, but whatever it is, I'm looking forward to it! ☺



L. Blair's demo calligraphic

GHOST HUNTER

We all know about Sam and Dean's hunting exploits in *Supernatural*, but what about in real life? Sharon Gosling talks to real-life ghosthunter **David Vee**, who tells us why ghosts don't just appear at night, why a haunting's more likely to cause heat than cold, and how an encounter with a spirit made him give up smoking...

David Vee has been aware of ghosts since a very young age, and has spent much of his life investigating the phenomena that surrounds haunting. He has garnered a reputation as the UK's premier ghost hunter, so who better to tell us a little about his experiences?

Vee's theories about what ghosts are and why they appear differs from what could be called the traditional idea of haunting. Rather than spirits returning from the dead, the ghost hunter believes that haunting is actually caused by 'ripples' in time.

"Even when you're history, you're still there," Vee explains. "It's just a replay of time, exactly as it is. The past is happening at the same time as the future is happening. It's where you have a geo-magnetic pull. Something like geo-magnetic lines – ley lines. When they cross, you get a plus or a minus, just like a battery. If you have two crossing, obviously it's more powerful. That tends to produce the energy to make something occur – a ripple in time."

Vee stresses that ghost hunting is neither for those who are easily scared or those who are easily bored. A lot of ghost hunting, he points out, involves waiting around for a long time with nothing happening. Actual sightings of ghosts are incredibly rare.

"If you go on a ghost hunt and you witness a ghost, then you are very lucky. It might frighten you, and it might scar you for life – but you've just had a vision of an echo in time."

He recommends that anyone interested in investigating supernatural phenomena do so as part of an experienced and reputable ghosthunting group. Vee is quick to point out that there are many myths surrounding manifestations, myths that are often perpetuated by the media.

One such myth in particular, Vee says, is the idea that an area where a haunting takes place becomes unnaturally cold.

"That's not true," he says, emphatically. "We can all stand there on a cold night and go, 'Oh, it's cold!' It doesn't matter if it's summer, you'll always find a spot where it's freezing cold. It doesn't mean to say there's a ghost there. But if it becomes

increasingly hot and the temperature rises incredibly, then something strange is about to happen. The atmosphere actually warms up, because what you get is a friction in the dimension. It heats up and heats up, and when the haunting is just going to appear, it becomes so hot it's unbearable."

Yes, also doesn't believe that ghosts are aware of what's taking place around them, or of the humans in the present.

"Ghosts don't just come out and haunt at night – there is no reason why they would do that. There is no witching hour. Whenever they were doing in their lives will actually occur when it occurs. So if at 8 o'clock at night they were doing something, then at 8 o'clock at night they will still do something. They won't wait until 3am and frighten you to death!"

Despite his belief that ghosts harbor the living no ill will, Vee has some terrifying stories of his own encounters – particularly in Orange Hall, which he considers to be the most haunted house in Britain.

"The worst thing that ever happened to me was at Britain's most haunted house," he says. "I had smoked for 30+ years up until this point. I was there on my own, looking after the house while the owners were away. It's quite isolated, about a mile and half from the nearest other house. I was sitting smoking, and I'd heard something coming down the stairs behind me. I thought, 'No, there's no 1st fl' – I'm firm on my own. I did actually get up and took a wander and couldn't see anything



I came back and sat down, and again I heard someone cough, quite generously. Then I felt something else around my neck, and the pressure intensified. I felt it become stronger, and I felt a hand imprint around my neck. Whatever it was started to strangle me, and I couldn't breathe. I couldn't see anything, all I could feel was the pressure of the hand around my neck. I was lifted

about six inches off the floor. The cigarette I had in my hand was broken, and I myself was thrown over this table, and I landed on this 18th century rug. I was so terrified by that experience that I gave up smoking. That was three years ago. And believe it or not, last year I had a problem with my throat. I'd kept getting a feeling that things were getting stuck in my throat. When I had it looked at, I had a little tear, so I feel that required."

Of the experience, Vee says, "I think something from history was being re-enacted, and I was in the right place at the right time – or the right place at the wrong time. It was one of those things, it happens, but I don't think they were out to actually do me any harm. They had loads of opportunities," he laughs. "They had all the time. In the world [to harm me], and [after all, I can't see them]."

"GHOSTS DON'T JUST COME OUT AND HAUNT AT NIGHT – THERE IS NO REASON WHY THEY WOULD DO THAT. THERE IS NO WITCHING HOUR."

Some ghost hunters, such as David Vee, say they prefer to use their senses to work out what's going on during a haunting. Others take specialist equipment with them. According to the website www.ghosthunting101.com, here's a run-down of tools some that you should take along with you out of common sense:

- ID – to prove to the police that you are who you say you are
- Screen camera with 400 speed film
- Digital camera
- A flashlight and spare batteries for it
- A first-aid kit
- A notebook and pen – it's important to be able to log everything that you experience
- A privacy screen

- Other suggestions for more specialist ghosthunting include:
 - A video camera
 - Digital voice recorder or tape recorder – to record vocal phenomena
 - Electromagnetic Field Detector (EMF) – some say upbats disrupt the electromagnetic field around them, so the EMF catches a "ghost truckle"

Essential Equipment

SUPERNATURAL READER SURVEY THE RESULTS!



You may remember we asked you a few months back for your responses to our *Supernatural* Reader Survey, and they've poured into our mailbox! There were copies of the *Supernatural - The Official Companion* Seasons 1 & 2 and a year's subscription to *The Official Supernatural Magazine* up for grabs for the people whose entries were picked at random, but we thought we'd also like to share the fun comments a lot of you sent in as well. Maybe you'll even spot your own name among them!

"It's not fair to pick ONE Winchester! I prefer to think of them as a unit. If I have to pick a single character, it would be Bobby. He is awesome!"
Carina Delgadillo, San Diego, CA

"I don't really know if he was a guest star or a supporting role, but I would like to see Ash (Chad Lindberg) interviewed, as he was a unique character."
Aimee-Louise Berry, Warwickshire, England

"I don't have a least favorite feature, but the magazine needs more posters!"
Sarah Leighton, Wrexham, Wales

"I like Sam, because he's down to earth and you can relate to him not wanting to do what his dad wants him to do."
Sam Bailey, Ramsgate, Kent, England

"I have to say Dean is my favorite. He's a cool character, but you can tell there is so much going on in that head - can't wait to find out more!"
Dawn Chisholm, Greenford, Middlesex, England

"Mainly my favorite is Dean, because he has a really good sense of humor, but I like it when Dean and Sam are together as well, because they have the same sense of humor as my cousin and I."
Big Kwen Sung, Naeth, Wales

"I can't decide between them. I love Sam and Dean. They both have different

qualities that I like. They complete the show together."
Markis Baby, Rotherham, England

"Who Ya Gonna Call" is just not my thing, it's kind of silly. I find the interviews and behind-the-scenes info more interesting."
Shannon Parsons, Culpepper, VA

"My favorite is 'Who Ya Gonna Call', because it's unique and wicked! Whoever came up with it rules!"
Carly Stockton, Crews, Cheshire, England

"Sam and Dean - don't make me choose! They're better together."
Reg Dave, Merrylands, New South Wales, Australia

"My least favorite was 'Saving People, Hunting Things, The Family Business'. If you watch the show, you should know the episodes already!"
Rebecca Williamson-Brown, Coleorton, Leics, England

"I liked the recap section, because it reminded me of just how scary some of the episodes were!"
Deborah Rucker, Medford, OR

"I'd like to see Ruby interviewed again, to see if she plans or hopes to become a more permanent character in the show."
Kevin Simpson, Nottingham, England

"My least favorite features were the interviews with Katie Cassidy and Aiona

Tal. Come on, most fans hate them. One girl an issue, please!"
Nicole DuJula, Hermitage, PA

"My favorite's Ruby, because you don't know her motives, and that makes her character arc very compelling."
Ryan Lail, Heiskell, TN

"I like Dean because I can identify with this character. We are very similar."
Chris Kuehl, Cedarburg, WI

"My favorite character is Dean, 'cause he's everything I'm not!"
Dannin Walker, Albany, NY

"Chad Lindberg (Ash) - he's funny and laid-back, but clever. He got killed off too soon in the show!"
Karan Ogden, York, England

"I'd like to see Linda Blair interviewed, she's a supernatural legend!"
Christina Perez, San Antonio, TX

"Nicki Aycox (Meg) is someone I'd like to see interviewed. Her character was so cool and scary, and



"I'd like to know more about her time on *Supernatural*."

Vicki Lamb, Bournemouth, England

"I'd like to see the actress that played Sarah Blake (Tyler Cook) in season one's *Providence* interviewed. She was the only one of Sam's loves that I approved of!"
Sandy Aslet, Middletown, NY

"My favorite character is Bobby – we don't hear much about him, but he's the cool uncle you'd like for yourself, and he loves Sam and Dean like they were his own."
Janie Broomhead, Yorkshire, England

"I'd like to see the kid that plays the kid Dean thinks is his interviewed, because kids do funny and honest interviews."
Rachel Caven, Leicester, England

"Who would I like to see interviewed? Any of the girls left behind in each episode!"
Kerle Sargent, Tolun, TX

"I love Samantha Fera (Ellen) – she's

awesome, she's the chick at the bar telling of the men what to do!"

Christine Kavanagh, Pomona, NY

"I like Lauren Cohan – Bela – a cool character who I love to hate! How she manages to outsmart the boys (Dean in particular) is hilarious."
Ellen Geary, Newark, England

"Dean. Why? Why not! He's sexy, smart, funny as heck, and kicks butt daily!"
Joanna Poffler, Newcastle, PA

"My favorite is Sam – I love his intelligence and the way that he's always making sure that what he and Dean do is right (for example, realizing that vampires can be good)."
Christina Kimes, Kenilworth, PA

"Top Five Motel Rooms Of Shame" made me giggle, because I always notice them on the show!"
Alys Scott, Herne Bay, Kent, England

"I like Sam, because he makes us geeks look awesome!"
Katelyn O'Connell, Brockport, NY

"They both rock! Jensen adds the hardcore part, and Jared adds the sensitive part. They both comprise the two halves of the show!"
Katelyn Griffin, Lodi, CA

"My favorite is Sam Winchester, because he's cute. He's such a nice guy who cares about everyone, but also has a dark side that I like."
Samantha McLane, Hull, England

"My favorite's the car... I'm a gearhead."
April Nunn, McKee, KY



"Dean! He's a badass from the word go, but family is important, no matter how uncool it may be. And he likes sweet music!"
Rebekah Davis, Carlisle, OH

"My least favorite feature? The scary clown I saw Stephen King's it when I was a kid... I've never quite recovered!"
Stefanie Curtis, Northampton, England

"I'd like to see Linda Blair interviewed – she's the scream queen!"
Jenelle Wheeler, Norton, OH

"My favorite is Dean – the humor, the love of classic rock... close second is Ruby (how could you say no to that demon!)."
Colin Smith, Fleet, Hants, England

"My favorite character is Dean Winchester. Dean is the essence of cool: great taste in music, cool sense of humor, and beautiful women find him irresistible. I wish my older brothers were like Dean."
Keith Bird, Tinker Park, IL

"Sam AND Dean. You can't have one without the other. I love the bond they have. It's beautiful yet heartbreaking."
Becca Church, Scarborough, ME



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AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The lucky people getting copies of *Supernatural – The Official Companion Seasons 1 & 2*, plus a year's subscription to this magazine waving its way to them are:

Christina Perez, San Antonio, TX
Alexandra Harbet, Moorestown, NJ
Andrea Ashe, Aurora, IL
Vicki Gingerich, Harrisburg, PA
Anne Renders, Sherman, CT



REGULAR LETTERS

return to sender



The Winchester boys might have no fixed address, but *The Official Supernatural Magazine* does, and we want your letters. Feedback, burning questions, and even criticism are all welcome. Just go easy on the last one (or we'll get a hungry Wendigo on you). If you're a US reader, send your queries, comments, and artwork to: **Supernatural Letters**, PMB #1-296, 8205 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood CA 90046-5377. Everyone else please write to: **Supernatural Letters**, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP. ourmag@titanet.com

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bela begone?

You asked for our thoughts on the show and said you could pass them on to Eric Kripke, and there's one matter I would love to give you and him some feedback on, and that's the addition of Bela to the show.

I know Kripke's realized that fans are not happy with her. Ruby has a role to play in the arc of the show and it may be part because she's a demon, and we can accept that.

Bela, however, has from the start made the guys look foolish - characteristically so - and patronized them and chewed them up, for no purpose that we can see. In fact, often it seems like the writers have had to go out of their way to absorb her into a story. Moreover, while Kripke has talked about making her more human in the future, after she's betrayed the guys to the FBI, knowing it would probably be a death sentence for Dean and would keep them locked up and apart the rest of their lives, I don't think he could do anything to save her now in the eyes of the fans.

The show has to stop introducing women in ways that belittle and outshine the boys - they made the same mistake with Jo pushing Dean, and Ruby saving Sam's life - but with Bela they've gone way too far. Please, if they must, let them introduce another female regular, someone with weaknesses and a little humility, or at least moral standards at odds with the guys, like Gordon or Heartless. (Or, better yet, bring back Ellen!) Not so much Bela. I don't know a single fan who isn't sick of her.

Katalin H. Horvay, via email



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taking some credit

Thanks for promoting *Supernatural*, which has always been a problem. For the record, I think someone should call MasterCard - Sam's favorite credit card. It may be fraudulent use, but you don't ever see him use a Visa! I am not the commercial new:

- One to start a road trip in your '69 Chevy Impala... 408
- Enough sayings to deal with your pain in-the-ass little brother... 390
- A supply of ammunitions to kill as many evil sons of bitches as possible... 448
- Killing your brother after his resurrection by making a deal with a demon... priceless.
- Kaine Adams, via email
- P.S. Loved the interview with Jeffrey Dean Morgan!



is romance dead?

Why are some of the *Supernatural* fans getting upset when Sam and Dean have

relationships? I don't have a problem with it. In fact, for me personally, I would like Sam and Ruby to get together. Now that would be an interesting overween romance!

Amiecia Williams, Greenock, Scotland

Judging by his dream about Bela in *Dream A Little Dream Of Me*, we wonder if that might be a more likely coupling, but we wouldn't be averse to seeing him with Ruby ourselves. What do other readers think of *Supernatural* romances?

merchandise update



We've had many, many enquiries about where the official *Supernatural* merchandise featured in issue one of this magazine is available, so to point everyone in the right direction, it can be purchased from the websites www.thequest.com, www.creationent.com, and www.inkworks.com



FAN BAROMETER

What's hot and what's not in the *Supernatural* universe. According to you.

Mag = the 1000 GO strange and evil

Sam taking his shoe

Scary little Lila

Bela is evil

Bela = leave the boys alone!

Sam maybe losing his brother

Agent Henriksen dying

Sam being proper by Aunt Bert Parvy, though

HOT

NOT

POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

It's still believed by some that the Jersey Devil could be a cryptid – an uncommon, undiscovered animal species that's shy of human contact and rarely sighted. This theory is partly based on the fact that physical descriptions of the creature have been pretty consistent and the fact that the Pine Barrens are still largely unpopulated. Some have even thought its sightings were really of the large local Sandhill Crane birds, suggesting some very short-sighted locals!

fact or fiction?

Yare designed to keep the little ones quiet, or something more sinister in origin? Each issue we delve into the world of the strange to bring you a tale so terrifying you'll struggle to sleep at night. This issue, we take a look at surely one of the most enduring myths around, the Jersey Devil...

Sightings of the so-called Jersey Devil go back to Native American folklore, overwhelmingly linked with the Pine Barrens area of southern New Jersey, named Poppussing or "Place of the Dragon" by the Lenape or Delaware tribe.

In the early 18th century, a long-necked, winged creature with a blood-curdling scream was allegedly seen, and in some cases wounded, by some witnesses, including French Emperor Napoleon's brother Joseph Bonaparte (who had settled in the area) in 1820 and the 19th-century naval hero Stephen Decatur.

The Jersey Devil was later blamed for a spate of livestock killings in the 1840s, but sightings reached their peak during one seven-day period in 1905, when mass panic occurred through Pennsylvania and New Jersey, caused by sightings of the Devil in many towns and villages. Some claimed the creature survived being shot, and even contact with an electric rail. Tracks were often found, even on rooftops, and ending suddenly and abruptly with no real destination, suggesting either flight or a more supernatural power.

Many sightings of the Jersey Devil have seen some of its body parts compared to those of a dog, a horse, and a bat. Generally though, the descriptions are pretty similar. Unlike other mythic creatures like Sasquatch, the Jersey Devil has reportedly been seen by many witnesses at once on many occasions.

Sightings continue to this day, with one of the most recent being in January 2005, when a farmer claimed to have seen the creature flying out of his barn. Whether it's fact or fiction, it looks like the Jersey Devil is here to stay.

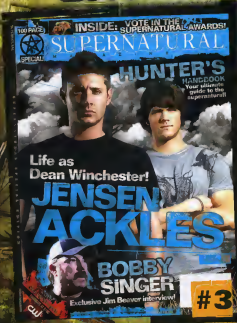
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Words: Neil Edwards

In 1905 the Pine Barrens area was extremely popular with tourists who would often stay in the area for weeks. The reported number of sightings peaked at a number of about 100 in 1905. It is believed that the sightings were really of the large local Sandhill Crane birds, suggesting some very short-sighted locals!

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Ask Eric!

Every issue, *Supernatural's* creator ERIC KRIPKE will be answering a selection of fan questions posed to

him by *The Official Supernatural Magazine*. Hot topics this month include how Mary knew the Yellow-Eyed Demon, what the shortened season three means for Dean, and whether the boys will ever hit the big screen...



Will it ever be explained how Mary Winchester knew the Yellow-Eyed Demon, or can we assume the YED lied to Sam?

Irene, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

It will be explained, I promise. YED was not lying. We were going to reveal it this year, but because of the writer's strike, we had to slide it into season four. Now, it may not be until later in season four, but an answer is coming.

How did Mary know the YED?



How will the shortened season three affect Dean's year-to-live storyline?

Jennifer Rowan, via email

It actually won't alter that particular storyline very much. There are other stories we wanted to tell, other triggers we wanted to pull, that will have to wait until season three... how Mary knew YED for instance, and whether Sam is really 100 percent Sam... but we decided that Dean's deal was the primary story of season four, and therefore the story we had to climax. So his deal comes due in the season finale. Tune in to see whether or not Dean takes a trip downstairs!



Will Dean take a trip downstairs...?

Is that a picture of our beloved producer Cyrus Yavneh on the Book Of Dreams in *Dream A Little Dream Of Me*?

Elaine Adams, via email

You've got a sharp eye! Yes, that is Cyrus on the back of that book. Our brilliant production designer Jerry Wanek is always dropping little in-jokes like that in the show's design. Mostly to amuse the crew. For instance, there's a Wanted poster in *Jus In Bello* for Molly Baker, who is director Phil Sgronek's daughter. And there was a framed photo of yours truly behind the bar at Harvelle's Roadhouse.



Cyrus Yavneh - his fame precedes him!



Would you ever make a *Supernatural* movie, and what would it allow you to do that you couldn't do on TV?

Chad Ross, Chicago, IL

Certainly some of the obvious things—more gore, more realistic dialogue (i.e., profanity, which is after all how guys that age speak). But honestly, it wouldn't all be about the prurient details. The scope and budget of a feature would allow me to really tell a *Supernatural* story the way I've always pictured them. Usually, we come up with a story, then immediately start working on pulling back the scope, so we can afford it with our limited TV budget. It would be nice to not have to rein in my imagination. Also, for a show about Route 66 America, there's almost none of that imagery on the screen. Dusty roadside diners, Monument Valley, American highways, vast expanses of cornfields. Currently, we have lots of Vampover fog and pine trees. I'd love to take the story on the road, and give it the American and Western visuals we're always referencing in story and dialogue. Who knows, maybe one day I will. I'd certainly be up for making a *Supernatural* movie, if Warner Bros. was.

What's the hardest part of your job?

Sarah Laine, via email

I would definitely say it's the schedule. I love writing the show; it never gets old for me. But it's the speed with which we have to write it—that's grueling. We need a finished 45 to 50-page script every eight days, 22 times in a row. And the machine never stops. Sometimes I wish we had more time per script, just an extra week or so, to really lie down the rough edges and get it right. But there's never any time, because our production unit needs material to shoot, and they need it yesterday—so you finish a script, race onto the next one, it's a bit like triage. Which is why there's always a couple scripts per year that don't turn out the way you want... because on this schedule, it's absolutely impossible to stick the landing every time. In many ways, television is a business about creative compromise—you don't ever have the time or money to recreate your vision exactly the way you see it in your head—and because I'm an anal bastard, that's always pretty painful.



Ask Eric!

Do you have a question for *Supernatural*'s creator? Send your queries to Ask Eric! *Supernatural* Magazine, P.O. Box #1256, 8205 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood CA 90046-5077 or email supernaturalmag@titanmail.com

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Guy Talk

Who you gonna call?

Reaper in your restroom? Killer clown in your kitchen? Whatever your unexplained phenomena, the Winchester brothers are on hand to help...

Dear Sam & Dean,
I live in a trailer park with my mom and sister. Our trailer is fairly new, but some strange things have been happening since we moved in. My sister has seen an apparition of a man in a yellow raincoat with a pair of heavy feet; the hall light switch flipped itself off one night, and the oven has been known to turn itself on and off. Can my trailer really be haunted, or can these strange things be explained away by science?

Alvin, Jacksonville, FL

Dean says: "You could certainly explain away all these events with science. Alvin, your sister must have been

seeing something supernatural. No feeling where your trailer was built. Local newspapers and libraries are often a big help with research like this. Once you know the full story you'll be able to decide if it's a haunting after all."

Dean says: "The studio has released several books to us, and we're for the holy hell... figure it out! Just go to it, but what the hell. If you see them again, give us a ring. A ring - a ring? No. In Land of the Dead? No. I tell you, I really don't



Dear Sam & Dean,
Last Halloween I did a cleansing/protective ritual for the doors and windows of my apartment. Then I lit a white candle and meditated for a bit. And as far as I know, nothing creepy has happened in this something I should do every year of Halloween, just to be safe?

Kim, Carriere, MO

Dean says: "It's good to be prepared, Kim, but it all depends on which ritual you performed. The

most likely outcome had their intentions been a much more than the candle you lit, for some something supernatural out of your mind, because they're not genuine. But some of them are, and they can be dangerous - reading with magic isn't for amateurs. Really this kind of stuff is best left to the experts."

Dean says:

"If you're worried, definitely set around your doors and windows - you don't need to be an expert to do it, and it keeps out a lot of trouble. It's not as simple as burning a candle or a plug in, though. Have you Sam? Good job too. Stay safe, everybody, leaving that kind of job to the experts they go. Bye."



Dear Sam & Dean,
I got a gift from Santa Claus this year, but my friends of school say he's not real and it was probably from my mom. Am they right?

Billy (age 7), Toledo, OH

Dean says: "If you need to ask your mom, Billy, it's not really for us to say. And hey, aren't you too young to be reading magazines like this? When Sam was your age he was still reading Game Boys' comics!"

Dean says: "Yeah, Dean. That's just what I do. The Game Boys had a huge influence on my childhood."

Dean says: "See the picture?"

Dean says: "Hm. I guess research doesn't really work in print."



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